

Honorable Chairman Trudi Schmidt, and Honorable members of the Finance and Claims Committee, for the record my name is Betty L Babcock, former Legislator, Constitutional Delegate, President of the Montana Capitol Restoration Foundation and a member of the Montana Historical Society.. My husband Tim Babcock, member of the Board of the Montana History Foundation, has asked me to also represent him as it was necessary for him to be out of town.

EXHIBIT 4
DATE 4-10-67
SB 836

Sometimes it is very tempting to be "Penny Wise and Pound Foolish". I know you are all to wise to do that.

I recall how very difficult it was to raise money for the state to purchase Virginia City and Nevada City. Think how fortunate we are that it was accomplished. Did you know there were 55 pieces of historic stained glass , part of the barrel vault, stored in box cars for thirty years on the railroad tracks there. We were able to retrieve them and now they have been returned to their rightful place above the Grand Staircase. Other artifacts were also retrieved such as some of the beautiful light fixtures which have been returned and installed in your own Senate and House Chambers. .

I have had the opportunity to visit Virginia City and also Nevada City not to long ago. That is a wonderful restoration work in progress and it would be a crime to let it stop now. We must finish what has been started. The sooner we do complete what we started, and the better we do it the sooner we will realize the benefit. It will be sure to pay off in the long run.

Virginia City and Nevada City are part of Montana's rich western heritage. Therefore I am asking you to please "reinstate the three million dollars for Historic Preservation funding with an amendment to HB 830 for the Montana Heritage Commission. ". .

These funds are critical for maintaining their current staffing and their momentum for their building preservation work Both Tim and I concur with this request and hope you will vote favorably..

Thank you for your time and for your distinguished service to our state.